



Alice Waterman and just a few of the midwives she's trained. Together they've made Sierra Leone a safer place for mothers and children.



Aminata gazes at her new born daughter. It's because of support from fundraisers like you that more and more mothers like her will be able to share this precious moment.

How your fundraising saves countless lives

In Sierra Leone, one in eight mothers die during childbirth – one of the highest maternal death rates in the world.

Thankfully, VSO volunteer midwife Alice Waterman couldn't stand by and see these deaths happen. And because of fundraising support like yours, VSO was able to bring her together with health workers in Sierra Leone to share her life-saving skills.

The facilities in the hospital were basic, but what's worse – the staff were woefully undertrained. It wasn't their fault – 11 years of civil war had robbed the health service of much of its staff.

But soon Alice was teaching classes of up to 70 health workers a day (just imagine how many that is a year). And each one of these students learned new sustainable life-saving skills that they could teach to others.

It's incredible to think how many people Alice's actions helped, or how many thousands of mothers and children are now alive because of her – just one person.

But it's because of support from people like you, that thousands more people like Alice can train others the skills needed to make a lasting change to their lives.

And that's the difference your fundraising makes to people.

Midwife Nancy Kellie holds baby Kamara, born just two days beforehand. With VSO volunteers' support, Nancy is preventing mothers and babies like Kamara from dying during childbirth.